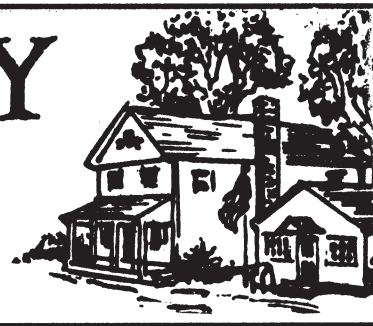




MONTEREY NEWS

October 2006
VOLUME XXXVI · Number 10



The Town

Director of Operations

After a discussion about paving parts of Sylvan Road, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes said he would find out what part of the road belongs to Monterey. Various residents of private roads have inquired about replacing the old white road signs; Forbes will investigate what that would cost the residents who wish to

do so. Forbes cautioned that the replicas of the old white road signs cannot be placed on town property.

Forbes told the Select Board that the Bureau of Forestry will be logging on Beartown Mountain Road and Brett Road, as well as on the corner of Swann and Brett Roads. Work on Sandisfield Road will be completed by end of September. Work is progressing on the River Road bridge, but the rocks have slowed the work down.

Plans for completion of the Town Hall work include ordering supplies so that contractor Mark Amsted can complete what the original contractor failed to do; also Gennari Plumbing is moving heating elements so that the door in the Select Board room can be moved, and an electrician will do the electrical work needed in both the building and the parking area.

Forbes informed the Select Board that Monterey will receive an additional



Wayne Dunlop

September 2, 2006: The Community Center float in the I Love Monterey Day parade. See story of float, p. 8.

\$55,000 in Chapter 90 money (state highway maintenance fund). Ordinarily Forbes would put all of the extra funds into road construction, but this year he would like to use \$20,000-25,000 to buy a small excavator to clean ditches and catch basins. He explained that his department now spends about \$4,000-5,000 annually to rent a small excavator when needed, so that buying one is ultimately a savings. Select Board member Jon Sylbert voiced his concern about this type of capital expenses without Finance Committee and Town Meeting approval. Select Board chair Michael Storch pointed out that this one-time state grant is not money appropriated by Monterey. After a discussion, the Select Board asked Forbes to continue his exploration of buying a small excavator, and report back.

At a later meeting, Debra B. Meilke, on behalf of the Finance Committee, met with the Select Board and Forbes to discuss purchase of the excavator with the Chapter 90 money. After a discussion Mielke indicated that the Finance Committee was satisfied with Forbes' plan and he will proceed with the purchase. A small Volvo excavator will be brought over to test from Tyler Equipment in Longmeadow.

Forbes said he is having the flags displayed on the roads taken down after the summer season.

Jamie Cahillane, Director of Recycling Services at the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), addressed the Select Board about the new policy for Transfer Station inspections now required by the DEP. The Select Board agreed to hire CET to conduct the inspection, which the town is allowed to do as part of its membership in the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District. Cahillane later inspected the Transfer Station with Forbes present and noted a few areas of necessary improvements. Cahillane also informed the Select Board that the town could apply for a Municipal Recycling Grant from DEP, which would provide various items for public recycling.

In mid-October Forbes will attend a meeting in Williamstown on municipal solar lighting projects.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart reported that a new inspector, with different expectations about water chlorination by the Monterey Water Company, expects Monterey to furnish a chlorinator meter acceptable to current state regulations. The new inspector found no problems with the water itself.

The Select Board reviewed a letter from the Tyringham Board of Selectmen requesting that the Monterey portion of

Brace Road be made passable from Tyringham. Forbes estimated that it would cost perhaps \$30,000 to grade and gravel the Monterey portion and noted that no Monterey residents live there.

On Monday, September 25, bids were opened for truck equipment. Howard P. Fairfield of Worchester, represented by Parker Brown, won the bid at \$45,525.71.

Building Issues

Building Commissioner Don Torrico reported that the Monterey School building was surveyed by the Dalton firm EDM, which will present the town with a report on needed repairs. Once Torrico has the report, he can meet with the school district to discuss the repairs. Forbes reminded the board that the contract between Monterey and the school district requires that the district maintain the building. Jon Sylbert noted further that the contract also provides that the district is liable if an accident occurs because of inadequate repair.

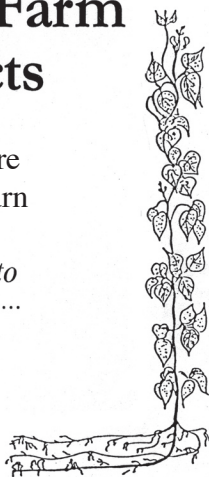
Torrico confirmed that the West Road subdivision on land purchased by Steepleview is a pre-existing building lot. Questions persist about the amount of frontage for roads in this area, many of them being asked of the Planning Board. Planning Board Chair Maggie Leonard was reminded that the Planning Board can hire engineers at the expense of the applicant if

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the situation warrants such action. Storch commended Leonard for keeping the Select Board, Torrico, and Forbes informed of issues arising before the board.

Questions are being raised about the steepness and length of a driveway of a partially cleared property on Route 23 across from Stevens Lake, site of a proposed new house.

Bob Krupsky, gas and plumbing inspector, has been informed that he will receive reimbursement for mileage and educational requirements. Krupsky suggested to the Select Board that because the alternate inspector, Bob Gennari, has so many Monterey clients, a second alternate inspector be appointed to deal with cases where there would be a conflict of interest.

Police Blotter

Included among Police Department activities from late August through the end of September reported by Police Chief Gareth Backhaus are: report of a sick or hurt fox on Hupi Road; apprehension of people setting off fireworks on Beartown Mountain Road; abandoned 911 calls on Beartown Mountain Road, Hupi Road; a complaint about three loose dogs on Pixley



The I Love Monterey Day parade stretches through the center of town (and beyond).

Road; an accident and a disabled motor vehicle on Route 23; another disabled vehicle on Blue Hill Road; a two-hour repair job of electrical wires brought down by a tree on Elephant Rock Road; loose cow on Curtiss Road; porcupine on Tyringham Road; raccoon on Curtiss Road; two loose horses.

Interdepartmental Secretary

The Select Board reviewed the redefined job description of the newly titled position of Interdepartmental Secretary, formerly the Town Secretary, clarifying the duties, which include acting as secretary for the Board of Health and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Select Board had been in contact with the state Ethics Commission about the changes in the job description and title, and received

recommendations about what needs to be included on the annual Town Meeting Warrant. Town Counsel also reviewed the description.

This and That

The Select Board noted that several meeting notices have been received in the Town Hall that do not meet the 48-hour meeting notice requirements required by the Open Meeting Law. Concern was expressed that the Town Clerk should be available to the public so that the meeting notices could be handed directly to the Town Clerk in a timely fashion. Town Clerk Barbara Swann was called and asked about the current procedure; she stated that when a meeting notice is brought in she needed to be called and notified, which is how you do it in a small town. >

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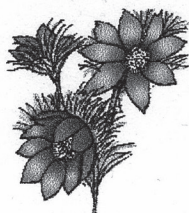
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The Select Board discussed hiring a mediator to help resolve personnel conflicts. A candidate for this position will meet with the board on October 2.

An Employee Compensation Committee has been established to advise the select Board, and Gareth Backhaus, Maynard Forbes, Dan Moriarty, and Michael Storch were appointed to one-year terms.

Chris Blair of the Conservation Commission confirmed to the Select Board that his board agrees to have the Lake Garfield drawdown begin on Monday, October 16. Noting that weed conditions are severe, it was suggested that lakeshore residents be encouraged to do regular septic cleaning and to pull out weeds along their property during the drawdown. Sylbert will contact Dan Moriarty to find out how the Lake Buel Association has handled their weed problem. The Select Board recommended there be follow-up on the two firms that have submitted proposals to write the new Notice of Intent for Lake Garfield drawdowns.

Maggie Leonard, Planning Board chair, along with members Brian Puntin and Janet Cathcart, introduced Mike Erkinen, candidate for the open seventh seat on the board, to the Select Board. Erkinen, a former town resident who has returned, has experience with construction as well as in management consulting. The three Planning Board members, plus board

member Laurily Epstein who was present at the meeting to take notes for the *Monterey News*, and the Select Board voted unanimously to appoint Erkinen to fill the seat vacated by Select Board member Wayne Burkhart. Erkinen was asked to contact the Town Clerk to be sworn in and was reminded that this appointment is until May, when he will have to run for election. The other candidate for the open slot, Jason Dunlop, will be offered the Planning Board secretary position.

Kathy Tryon questioned the Select Board about plans for high-speed Internet access (DSL) in Monterey. Select Board chair Michael Storch said that in his talks with Verizon, he was told that Verizon anticipates providing some DSL lines to Monterey.

Addressing a letter to the Police Chief from homeowner Adam Lippes about trees planted without his permission in front of the berm on his property by the Tree Warden, the Select Board invited the Tree Warden to its September 11th meeting to discuss the situation. Fire Chief Ray Tryon gave the Select Board an abbreviated history of the berm. According to Tryon, the perilous condition of Route 23 at the front of the property was dangerous, with guardrails hanging in the air because of washouts on the road. Tryon explained that the original three-foot berm helped shore up the road, but when it was discovered

that the berm was built on town property, the owner was instructed to move it onto his own property. He did so, but made the berm six feet high, which we see today.

Stan Ross advised the Select Board that Gould Farm hopes to finalize the proposed one-acre land swap between the town shed and Gould Farm. Noting that this plan originated some years ago, well before the current Select Board members were elected, Storch asked Ross to explain the concept to the Board, which Ross agreed to do at a later date.

The Board of Assessors and the Assistant Assessor met with the Select Board to explain why they need additional funds to implement the cartographic mapping. The discussion ended with a decision to use funds in their budget that were allocated for a different purpose.


Tim Lovett of Brockman Realty, who has been overseeing the rental of Bally Gally, the second house on the McLaughlin-Wilson property willed to the town, reported that he had received several applications and, after reviewing the references, has a couple that is ready to move in on November 1, provided that some needed repairs will be completed by then. Director of Operations Forbes

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said that the repairs will be done before November 1. The Select Board thanked Lovett for his work, which he did gratis.

Monterey resident Michael Johnson and Lani Moore of the Railroad Street Youth Project in Great Barrington asked the Select Board to sign a petition recognizing September 21 as an annual International Day of Peace, which the board agreed to do. Details on how the day will be observed are to be worked out.

David Smith and Kathy Finkle of the Sheffield Kiwanis Club, which also serves surrounding towns, appeared before the Select Board to discuss a community service project, a highway cleanup for a stretch of two miles in Monterey on Sunday, November 26. They will organize the cleanup and provide the necessary supplies, asking only that they be allowed to dispose of the trash at the Transfer Station. The board approved the proposal, suggesting that the cleanup start in the flats on Route 23 and go two miles from there. The board also asked that a letter be sent to them and the Police Chief summarizing the plans.

The Halloween Trick or Treat hours for the town have been set as 5 to 7 p.m. on October 31.

— Laurily Epstein

Moreau Installed as Monterey Postmaster

On Friday, September 22, Phillip C. Moreau Jr. ("Cory") was officially installed as postmaster of Monterey Post Office in a ceremony at the Monterey Fire Station attended by townspeople, family, friends, and Postal Service dignitaries. After remarks by Stockbridge Postmaster Sandy Tynan and Post Office Operations Manager Mike Mannix describing Moreau's experience, competence, and qualifications, the new postmaster was officially sworn in by Postal Service District Manager John Powers while Cory's niece, Taylor Robertson, held the Bible.

After the swearing in, Moreau presented commemorative stamp plaques to Fire Chief Ray Tryon and to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus in acknowledgment of the service provided to the community by the Fire Company and the Police Department.

In becoming a postmaster, Cory is following in the footsteps of his parents. His father is postmaster in North Adams, and his mother was formerly postmaster

in Great Barrington. As Cory pointed out, the dinner table conversation when he was growing up may have affected his career choice. He began his postal career in 1998 as a letter carrier in Great Barrington, later transferring to Pittsfield as a clerk and letter carrier. After that he served as an acting supervisor in Pittsfield and in Bennington, Vermont, Post Offices before becoming the acting postmaster in Monterey.



Phillip C. Moreau being sworn in as Monterey postmaster while his niece Taylor Robertson holds Bible.

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Planning Board News

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 26, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to review proposed changes to the Subdivision Control Regulations. The proposed language outlines the requirements for the submission of an application for a subdivision permit; the text is available at the Town Hall for study. The proposal instructs that the requisite number of copies of the plan and application materials be included, along with the applicable fees, and that the Town Clerk be notified that the plan has been submitted to the Planning Board. Additional language outlining the performance of a "Completeness Review" instructs the Planning Board to review the submission for completeness using a checklist. In the event of an incomplete submission, the board may reject the application, thereby stopping the 90-day time period that the board has to respond to the application.

Language will also be presented regarding road adequacy and adequacy of access, and the employment of outside consultants. The adequacy of access section addresses access to individual building lots, division of lots along existing ways and the adequacy of access to those lots, and adequacy of ways to a proposed subdivision road. There is a list of specifi-

cations that define adequacy of access and provision for the employment of outside consultants, ensuring that the Planning Board has the ability to determine if the road or way has been constructed properly. The employment of outside consultants can also include engineers, planners, lawyers, hydrologists, etc., to review plans, perform impact analysis, inspections, or other technical assistance, with the cost to be borne by the applicant.

The Planning Board is also proposing to increase the fees for Form A/Approval Not Required, Form B/Preliminary Plan, and Form C/Definitive Plan. This proposal seeks to update the fee schedule, which has not changed since 1987, with the exception of Form A's, and was in some cases more than 50 percent less than other towns in Berkshire County. The fee proposals are as follows: Form A increases from \$40 to \$75; Form B Preliminary Plans, which have a base fee plus a per lot fee, increase from \$50 to \$100 for the base fee and increase the per lot fee from \$10 to \$20; Form C Definitive Plans increase the base fee from \$100 to \$200 and increase the per lot fee from \$20 to \$25.

The Planning Board met with Highway Superintendent Maynard Forbes to consult on roads in general, and specifically with regard to the proposed changes to the Subdivision Control Regulations. Forbes, having heard about the preliminary

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2007 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the **second quarter** have been mailed and are due **November 1, 2006**. If you did not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x17). If the FY 2007 tax rate is set on time, the actual tax bills will be mailed by January 1, 2007, showing the third and fourth quarter amounts due February 1 and May 1, 2006.

— Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

plan submitted by Steepleview Development, sent a letter to the Planning Board pointing out drainage problems at the intersection of West Road and Route 57, with the intention of not compounding the problem. The Planning Board assured Forbes that consultation with the Highway Department is imperative before approval of definitive plans with regard to any subdivision in Monterey will be granted. The group also discussed with Forbes creating language for the zoning bylaws about common driveways. Forbes said that he would submit specifications to the board regarding length, width, slope, and number of lots served by a common driveway.

— Maggie Leonard, Chair
Monterey Planning Board

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Great Day, Great Tag Sale

Even the elements looked favorably upon the Monterey Community Center Tag Sale on September 2. Despite dire warnings of heavy winds and rain, the weather held steady for the financially successful tag sale and the hilariously creative parade held that morning.

The 2006 "I Love Monterey" celebration was successful in raising money, but even more profitable in demonstrating to longtime and new residents alike that Monterey is not just a geographic site, but a convivial, friendly community that takes pride in its citizens and itself. All four Labor Day weekend events were well attended, and two raised money for the prospective community center.

The tag sale brought in \$7,095.96 for the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH), as well as providing hundreds of people with breathtaking bargains. We have no way of knowing for sure how many people donated items to the auction, but the total must be at least 100. As for buyers, the only figure for which we have accurate numbers, thanks to Mickey Beller's careful accounting, is "early bird cherry pickers," the 22 people who spent \$10 each for "first dibs" on the thousands of items up for sale. But we know that many wandered the aisles picking up bargains on artwork, household items, furniture, toys, bibelots, collectibles, electronics, and much, much more.

As anyone who has worked on a tag sale knows, its success depends on the

volunteers who pick up donations, who then sort, price and display them, and then, finally, schlep the leftovers to the transfer station. The heavy-duty movers and shakers of this year's tag sale committee include Joe Baker, Laury Epstein, Sharon Magruder, Debbie and Chuck Mielke, and Shirley and Storrs Olds. Joel and Alice Schick graciously donated their barn for storage. And Joel worked his usual graphics magic on posters, signs, and advertisements. Special thanks to Will Marsh for printing the September *Monterey News* a bit early for maximum publicity about the "I Love Monterey" activities.

Among the many others whose contributions of time and energy led to the tag sale's success are Kenn Basler, Mickey Beller, Maryellen Brown, Carol de Harak, Tali Epstein, Cindy Hoogs, Gige O'Connell, Gerry Shapiro, Jane Schwartz, Susan Sellow, and Cynthia Weber. The Olds' grandchildren from Housatonic and the Chuck and Debbie Mielke children were superb clerks.

Thanks also to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, and Fire Chief Ray Tryon for their cooperation. Gould Farm and Greenhaven Farm guaranteed that tasty local food was available for lunch. Farmer/baker Steve Pullen donated \$50 from the sale of his widely known pies to the FWMH. And we mustn't forget the last-minute help of the Coffee Club "musclemen" who helped set up the tables.

— Laury Epstein

Free Movie, Quilt Raffle Drawing Oct. 15 Who will get "Bunnies in the Greensward"?

On Sunday, October 15, in the Meeting House fellowship hall, the Monterey Piecemakers will hold the drawing for their lovely quilt 'Bunnies in the Greensward,' with proceeds going to the Community Center project. Last-minute raffle ticket purchases are encouraged. The free event will start at 4:00 p.m. with the showing of *The Quiltmakers Of Gee's Bend*. This one-hour documentary explores the extraordinary lives, inspirations and history of critically acclaimed African-American quiltmakers from Gee's Bend, Alabama. The *New York Times* hailed their quilts as "some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced." The PBS film also follows them on a poignant and sometimes comical bus journey to see their quilts exhibited at a major museum.

The drawing will follow the film, and rumor has it that pumpkin pie and cider will accompany the drawing.



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Community Center's Afloat

The Labor Day kickoff weekend for the Monterey Community Center's Capital Campaign was a glowing success. I won't take space here to detail the weekend's events as I know they are reported elsewhere in this publication. In addition to all the organizers and participants, the FWMH would like to thank the Fire Company for the use of the pavilion for the tag sale and the Monterey Church for use of its space for the George Packer talk. We would also like to thank all the folks who were involved with the Community Center float, and I would like to tell a bit about its creation.

Ellen Pearson, parade master, offered guidance and encouragement all along the way. Roger Tryon embraced the idea of using one of his rigs and when I mentioned that the main object of float creation was to have a lot of fun, he went right to work cleaning up his shop so that we could pull the "rig" inside and work on it for the three evenings preceding the parade. Glynis Oliver painted a likeness of the front of the Wilson House on a yellow sheet that we stretched canvas-like on the side of the barn with a drop cloth tacked behind it. Carrie Petrik and I went out to Roger's back lot and stripped the boughs off of three huge overgrown Christmas trees, leaving them looking like clipped poodle tails. We collected old carpeting from the dump and Laury's garage. We met in Roger's shop to put it all together. Julia, Mike, Tarsi, Cora, and Sudi developed a technique to weave the pine boughs into the chicken wire we had stapled to the sides of the

trailer. Roger cut more trees to accentuate the float corners and hold Glynis's mural. Carrie and Rory applied carpeting and assembled signage. Ellen stopped in to check on our progress, and Kenn stopped by to spy on our float. (There were rumors of float competition.) There was always lots of laughter. It was going well but I still had one sleepless night riddled with float anxiety: were there enough people riding on the float, were there too many people riding on the float, and what if it rained? I entertained thoughts of changing the float theme from "A Sample Weekly Schedule at the Community Center" to "Singing in the Rain with Karl." (See photo, p. 1.)

It was raining when I got up Saturday morning but it soon stopped. Roger fueled up the tractor, hooked on to the float and headed for town. Everyone showed up, and only a few of us worriers wore raincoats! Tarsi, Julia, and Roger added the sprigs of bright goldenrod to the pine bough skirts. Folksinger Karl Finger climbed on to set up his performance place; we had a tarp stowed on board and people assigned to hold it over him so his guitar wouldn't get wet if it did rain. The quilters, Pam and Barbara, were ready to go with their quilts and chairs. Evelyn and Gerry were geared up for a few hot hands of poker. Glynis positioned a double thick mat for yoga to insure her personal comfort. Mike warmed up on Gige's exercise bike. Julia and Carol set up their ingenious ping-pong game. Barbara, wearing her beret, was at the easel, and Shannon, poised with her binoculars, was ready to begin her nature walk. Jane arrived with her three young grandsons to sing with Karl. John jumped

on to play backup guitar and sing with Karl too. Our mobile community center was ready to roll.

It was a fine parade, but the biggest payoff for me happened as we were creating the float. I met five new neighbors who were all incredibly wonderful and spent time with others whom I usually only wave to in passing. It is what the Community Center project is all about.

FWMH Campaign Committee

FWMH would like to introduce the members of the recently formed Campaign Committee. The co-chairs are Laurily Epstein and Maggie Leonard, who are both very active around town, including serving on the Planning Board. Laury spearheaded the tag sale and Maggie organized the George Packer event. Members include Kenn Basler of Eaton Road (and the General Store); retired teacher Jane Black of Stevens Lake; Dianna Downing, Route 23; Carolyn Mandel, Eaton Rd; Christine Martin, Main Road; and Jamie Puntin, Kathryn Roberts, and Jane Schwartz, all of Art School Road.

— Susan Sellew

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The tentative painting days are November 18–19.

Otis Cultural Council Accepting Grant Applications

The Otis Cultural Council is now accepting applications for grants for the 2007 season. We welcome a variety of artists and musicians from the Massachusetts area to provide activities, workshops, and concerts for both adults and children. Applications are available at www.mass-culture.org and at the Otis Town Hall, Town Clerk's office, and must be mailed to the Otis Cultural Council, Otis Town Hall, Otis, MA 01253, postmarked no later than October 16, 2006.



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The Monterey Big Brassy Band struts their stuff: Ed Herbst on trombone; Bonner McAllester on snare drum; Allan Dean on trumpet; Joe Baker on sousaphone; Mitchell on bass drum; Riccardo Boehme on cymbals.

Cultural Council Grant Applications Due October 16

Monterey Cultural Council grant applications for 2007 are due on Monday, October 16. Forms are available online at mass-culture.org and in the Town Hall. Each year the Massachusetts Cultural Council allocates funds to each town in the state to make its own grants to arts, humanities, and interpretive science projects that benefit the immediate community. The council welcomes public input and ideas at any time, especially as it plans a new year's allocation, and a special public input meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Anyone with ideas for the Council is encouraged to attend.

Free Health Screening, MassHealth Enrollment Help

On Tuesday, October 17, Healthy Communities Access Project (HCAP) will host a free health screening and MassHealth enrollment session at Monterey Town Hall, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Southern Berkshire HCAP team will be available to answer questions regarding MassHealth, provide referral information, free health screenings, health education materials, and giveaways. Any uninsured or underinsured resident of Massachusetts will have the opportunity to apply for MassHealth that day. If you would like an appointment or have any questions, please contact us at 413-644-0104 ext. 16.

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Report from Assessors

There has been a great deal of activity in the assessors' office as the town modernizes and corrects its tax database. Some of the changes in the database will ultimately be reflected in individual property tax bills, so the Board of Assessors thought that it might be helpful if, from time to time, we published a brief summary of its actions in the *Monterey News*. This offering is the first of these summaries.

Remapping of Monterey

The digital maps of Monterey prepared by Cartographic Assoc. have been received. The digital map set consists of 43 component maps, most of which are rendered at 1 inch to 200 feet, but some at 1 inch to 100 feet. As part of their service, Cartographics determined the size of each real estate parcel to the nearest 1/1000 acre using the best available data (original deeds, certified surveys) compiled on a "horizontally controlled" base map that corrects for errors due to topology. These new sizes differed from the old ones in about 80 percent of the cases—most often the discrepancy was small, but sometimes on the order of a few acres. One of the results of this mapping venture is that the recorded size of Monterey has increased by 71 acres to 16,632 acres. Consequently those persons that gained ground as a result of this remapping will have a slightly larger tax bill in the future.

The new maps also differ from the old ones in that they assign a 16-digit identification number to each real estate parcel, rather than the old map and lot numbers. Most towns with digital maps use this numbering system. For Monterey, which doesn't have many subdivisions, condos, and apartments, only the first 6 digits are important: the first 3 are the map number, the second three are the lot number. The first two parts of integrating the new map data into our existing data base—changing all of the parcel ID numbers to the new ones and correcting all of the parcel sizes—has been completed.

Assessment of Lake Frontage

Monterey increases the assessed value of parcels having frontage on Lake Garfield by \$1,900 per foot of lakefront; on Lake Buel by \$1,800 per foot of lakefront; and on Stevens Pond by \$1,000 per foot of lakefront. In the past, parcels fronting on waterways connecting to the lakes (the channels in Lake Garfield and Lake Buel, the entrance to Peppermint Brook) were assessed arbitrarily and often in inconsistent ways. The assessors and assistant assessor made a field trip to study the relevant lake sites and formulated a consensus policy: the parcels fronting on waterways adjoining the lakes would be assessed \$475 per waterfront foot if they front on portions of the waterway that are navigable with a small boat. If they front on portions that aren't navigable there will be no additional assessment. The assessors will

mark the transition points between lakes, navigable waterways, and unnavigable waterways on the new maps. As earlier, parcels that front on small streams such as the Konkapot River, Rawson Brook, upper Peppermint Brook, Harmon Brook and Swann Brook will not be assessed for those water features.

Other Land Value Modifiers and Adjustments

The assessors' database is a complete description of each parcel of land and includes a list of value-enhancing (e.g., water frontage, view, road frontage) and value-depreciating factors (e.g., wetlands, bad topology, slope, nonbuildable lot size). These modifying factors have accumulated over the years and often are incompletely defined in our database or of questionable current validity. Consequently, the assessors decided to reevaluate all cases where the property value modifiers have been employed. This will involve site-visiting 356 properties and will take about a year to complete the review.

— Bob Lazzarini

Monterey Board of Assessors



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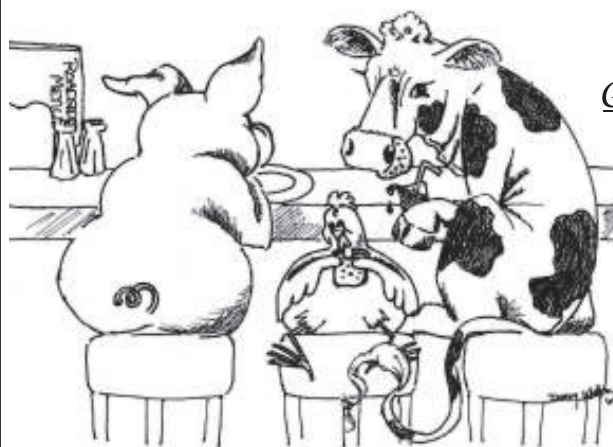
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Bats in Your Home?

At this time of year bats may come out of the attic take up temporary residence in the home. Since bats can carry the rabies virus, it is wise to take precautions to make sure everyone is kept safe and protected. Here are some simple steps to take:

Bat proof your house: "Carefully examine your home for holes that might allow bats entry into your living quarters. Any openings larger than a quarter-inch by a half-inch should be caulked. Use window screens, chimney caps, and draft-guards beneath doors to attics, fill electrical and plumbing holes with stainless steel wool or caulking, and ensure that all outside doors close tightly" (CDC Pub). Please try not to seal the home May through August when young bats that cannot fly may die or be forced into the home if you exclude the parents. For more information about "bat-proofing" your home, contact Bat Conservation International, <http://www.batcon.org/home/default.asp>.

If a bat is found in your home: If you are not sure how long the bat has been present in the home or if you have been exposed, especially if you wake up in the morning and a bat is in your bedroom, isolate the bat in the room, catch it and call 528-3211 and ask for the Monterey Animal Control Officer for assistance. It is very important to keep the bat alive so that it can be tested for rabies. If the bat is destroyed or escapes there is a very good chance that you and your family will have to undergo treatment for rabies. Since bats are known to carry this deadly virus and their bites can be difficult to detect, the Massachusetts Department of Health is recommending treatment if a bat is present with access to the bedroom when the family is asleep.

Highland Towns Gain Tool to Aid in Land-Use Decisions

The Highlands region of Western Massachusetts comprises a rich fabric of ecologically valuable lands. Thanks to a new mapping tool, local towns and organizations are now able to determine the ecological and biodiversity values for every location within their boundaries. The Conservation Assessment Prioritization System, or CAPS, became available to towns and organizations in the Highlands region in September. Developed by the University of Massachusetts with sponsorship from the Highland Communities Initiative, CAPS will provide local leaders with cutting-edge scientific guidance for future land-use planning and conservation decisions.

CAPS development team member Scott Jackson says, "CAPS is unlike any other tool currently being used for estab-

If the bat has not been in contact with a family member isolate it in the room and open all windows and doors to let it fly away.

Catching a bat: When the bat is roosting on a surface, approach quietly with an empty container (coffee, etc), place over the bat and slide a piece of cardboard over the top—secure with tape and punch holes in the cardboard so it can breathe—if no exposure release outdoors—if suspected exposure call Division of Epidemiology at the MA Dept. of Public Health at (617) 983-6800. The epidemiologist can assess the risk involved and make an official recommendation.

—Nora Hayes
Animal Control Officer

lishing conservation priorities." The power of CAPS lies in its ability to analyze vast amounts of data using models developed for specific natural communities, such as forested wetlands, high-gradient streams, ponds, and grasslands. CAPS then distills the complex information into easily understandable maps, allowing users to see any piece of land in a new and more comprehensive way.

The practical importance of CAPS maps is far reaching. According to Jackson, "Results of these analyses can be used to guide land protection efforts, evaluate the impacts of large development projects, and conduct alternatives analyses for development projects, land management decisions or environmental restoration efforts." Towns and organizations will be able to access the mapping tool via the website http://www.umass.edu/landeco/research/caps/applications/caps_applications.html

The Conservation Commission of each of the 38 Highland towns will also receive a full color CAPS map of their community.

A program of The Trustees of Reservations, the Highland Communities Initiative is a group of neighbors and volunteers working to enhance the quality of life and rural character of our communities. HCI connects people and provides them with the information and support they need to preserve the special natural and cultural landscapes of the Highlands region. To find out more, please visit us at www.highlandcommunities.org.

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Route 23 Monterey

Monterey Library Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Building

The next youth book discussion group will be on Monday, October 2, at 7 p.m. There is still room for new members, but in order to finalize the groups and lists we ask that anyone interested please attend this next meeting or contact Franny Huberman at 528-5414. Any child over 7 who can read independently is welcome!

On Saturday, October 28, at 10:30 a.m., back by popular demand, Denise Andrus will read a story and help young children with an appropriate Halloween craft.

On Saturday, October 7, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the current library building! History tells us that there were lending libraries in what was originally Tyngham back in the 1700s, but it wasn't until May of 1891 that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided a grant of books to start a formal library in Monterey. Come in and see the catalogue of the Monterey Free Library from that date. We have been gathering up some of the surviving books from that original collection.

When Monterey was deemed too small for a Carnegie Library, the town built its own on a piece of land donated by the Monterey Dramatic Society in 1926. In February of 1930 the Town Meeting

approved Article 17, to raise and appropriate funds for the new library building. Article 20 of that same date raised and appropriated money for indoor toilets for the Monterey Center School (our current school). The library cost the town \$7,000; the toilets cost \$300. Though we can't seem to locate any details on the construction of the Georgian-style building, we know it was finished and occupied in 1931.

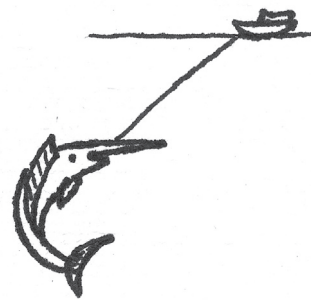
In the town report the trustees gave as a reason for the new building, "... we are hopeful of buying more non-fiction books and of increasing the interest of the readers in worth-while things." I wonder what those trustees would think of Danielle Steel and James Patterson. The subscription to National Geographic that year was \$3.00—and we still have those magazines! There have been two additions to the building, the Historical Society's wing in 1975, and office space in 1997. Though there have been many changes, much of the furniture is original. The computers are not.

On October 7, Karl Finger will entertain young and old at 10:30 a.m. We will have some history on display and welcome any donations, especially pictures and articles, to our scrapbooks. Refreshments will be provided by the Monterey General Store. If you have never visited the library, Oct. 7 would be a good day to come. Library cards will be free that day (as they are the rest of the year). If you haven't

visited in a while, stop in and use our wifi satellite connection and peruse the audio CD and DVD movie collections. If you are a regular patron, please stop by and be thankful for all the good books—and the bad ones as well (at least you didn't buy them!).

I would like to thank the town for its support of this library over those 75 years. As a child growing up in Monterey I could never fully appreciate what the library meant, but I knew it was a special place to go to and I always had some book out (there was the one Mr. Abercrombie gave up asking for after two years, which I found two years after that under my bed). Now I know there are many places in this world that do not even have a library. As a regular patron of the library my only wish is that I could borrow the time to read all the books I see check in and out every day. Hope to see you on October 7!

— Mark Makuc



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*Come then, my love, to stately joys
a gentle spooling of a time and place
and let me take you by the hands
and hold you in the fall's embrace*

*and let the sky fall on the flower
and it in turn upon this hour
'twould be enough to touch my thought
to know love's power*

*enough to read the rubrics
that prevent your wanting pace
enough for me to see you speak
and hear the tender of your face.*

— A. O. Howell

days of watermelon

*days of watermelon
days of bitter greens
days of poisonous mushrooms
What can we make of the summer skies?
sweat, chest pain, and tears
a gibbous moon hanging high
a shooting star or two
lightning all around us
Mars every morning
today seven sentried sons on a street
they have no business on
are blown away by a roadside bomb
tonight in the tea room
the cereus serves us
seven sweetly perfumed blooms
When did the world begin?
What dreamed human beings?
Where was the first kiss kissed?
Who will cook all of this zucchini?
How will the tribes be reconciled?
Why is the cure so hard to swallow?*

— R. Zukowski

The Trees of Monterey

*A leaf, not toothed, nor lobed
Common as a blade of grass
Is in my dreams.
This leaf, a precious gift,
Drifts down to me in Istanbul.*

*In Istanbul, there are "plane" trees
To shade a pasha's path.
And in Bachesehir are gardens
That please the passersby.*

*But when I sleep I see fir trees,
And follow paths beneath the green
Of hemlock, pine and maple.
These are the trees of Monterey
And I see them in my dreams.*

— Elizabeth Wolff

(The drawing of the plane tree leaf at right is by Elizabeth Wolff's grandson Emre Arbac, who lives in Bachesehir, near Istanbul.)



Annals of the Monterey School: Part 1

When you say out loud, "I went to a one-room school," heads may turn and look at you as if you are some sort of fossil, or least part of a nostalgic past. I felt that look of curiosity when I started to teach in the one-room Monterey School on Route 23 just above the center of town.

My family, nine of us—my husband, my mother, six daughters, and I—moved to Monterey in October of 1961. Teachers were in short supply, and I was asked to tutor some students and do some substituting. Then in 1963 I was offered the position of teaching in the Monterey School. I hadn't planned on a full-time position so soon, and had to think it over. In late August I said yes, with some reservations, as I was the product of the big-city Boston school system. There I was on the first day of school, stranded in one room with probably five first-graders and about twelve second-graders. I taught the two grades until 1967, when there was a shift in the population and the second graders went to the New Marlborough School.

There were other one-room schools in the district: Mrs. Wilcox in Egremont and Mrs. Moulton in Alford. We formed a communications link, because sometimes information did not get to the outlying

schools. When the superintendent was making the rounds, and I think it was a 75-mile circumference, I would get a call to "put away your phonics books." The district was committed to the "look say" reading method of Dick, Jane, and Sally, no phonics, but we knew better.

The kids were wonderful and the parents supportive. We shared the community news and goings on. School had let out on the fateful November day in 1963; I had turned the radio on and just brought in the flag when I heard the news of President John Kennedy's assassination. When the children returned to school after that terribly sad weekend there were many questions and reports, many family reactions to address. Dara reported that her mother cried. Why were there horses? What would happen now? That tragedy affected every child. They all had a family reaction story and we listened to them all.

There was freedom to walk to the library once every week or two, visits to the post office and the parks, and in December the trips to the church to rehearse for the annual Christmas play. The Christmas play was put on for the whole town, and every child had a part. The plays were not religious pageants, but original collaborations of students and teacher. A sturdy four-foot addition to the church stage was made and put in place by the highway department, giving us room to dance around a Christmas tree or a snowman.

Casting for the plays sometimes took some diplomacy. One year we had

mostly boys, and the class wanted to do a Cinderella story. We could cast Cinderella and the sisters, but no girls were left for the fairy godmother. So we changed the script and had a fairy godfather. It was very successful.

The year *The Man From La Mancha* came out, the class learned the song "Little bird, little bird in the ..." and we changed the words to "Christmas tree." The storyline was that the bird made the poor little tree beautiful. The children sang and my daughter in the audience played the flute as the bird's echo voice.

One year we had a part for a mean, wicked witch who would melt the good snowman. No one wanted to be the witch. Finally, after some hard sell, a little girl bravely said she would do it, and she did a great job. That little girl grew up to be a visiting nurse. After the plays, and it seemed like the whole town was there, Santa Claus would come and distribute the donated gifts to every child.

Teaching in a rural one-room school is a privileged experience. I watched the students that I had grow up, go on to higher education and professions, start businesses, find local jobs, go off to the wide world to make their marks and raise families.


One of my former students sat on the porch of the General Store with me the other day and said what a wonderful place Monterey was to grow up in. The Monterey School certainly added to that.

— Gige O'Connell

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Baseball: Story of a Game

It is now October and with it comes the end of the baseball season. Baseball. America's national pastime has experienced a lot lately. Barry Bonds hit his 715th home run under the shadow of steroid allegations, passing Babe Ruth (the Sultan of Swat). The Washington Nationals began play just last year.

Bringing it back to the Berkshires, Pittsfield showcased baseball with a presentation called "The Art of the Game," inspired by an account in a 1791 Pittsfield document banning the play of baseball and assorted other sports near the new meetinghouse. Was baseball invented in Pittsfield? It's an interesting idea.

To add to all this, Monterey's own Cal Ripken League teams have enjoyed an excellent season of baseball at Greene Park. This has been orchestrated by some fabulous coaches who donated their time throughout the spring and summer to instruct children in the art of playing baseball.

Baseball definitely has experienced its share of excitement recently, as these events show. However, as other sports such as football grow in popularity, is baseball's place as our national pastime in jeopardy? Let's take a trip through time and find out.

Baseball has certainly developed since the 1791 document was penned. So has America. The changes in both are quite evident. Back then the United States



Noel Wicke

Gould Farm has been designated as a Model Forest by the Forest Stewards Guild in recognition for their work in maintaining the 650 acres of woodlands and farmland that are part of the Gould Farm property and program. Bob Perschel of the Guild (l.) joined Gould Farm's Bob Rausch, head of the Forestry and Grounds team, and Executive Director Cate Tower at a September 22nd ceremony marking the accomplishment.

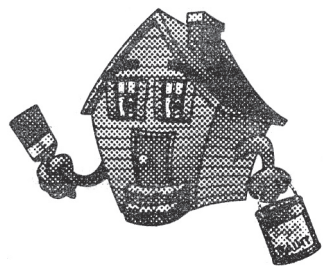
was a fledgling nation, just eight years old. Now we are a world power with an important role in international affairs. Baseball has gone from a small-town game often played for fun to a big city, big money game with thirty official teams and a host of rules. In a way the changes in both are not unlike.

Baseball has enjoyed a long role as the nation's pastime. Walt Whitman said of the game in 1846, "I see great things in baseball. It's our game—the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors ... and be a blessing for us." Whitman was right. The sport became more and more refined as time went by, not to mention more popular. It was first recognized as the national pastime in 1856, went profes-

sional in 1869, and was firmly established as America's game by 1901, the beginning of the modern era of baseball.

Baseball has always been with our country in times of trouble. The Depression hit it hard, but baseball kept going. Baseball stayed with us during two world wars, despite the threat of a shutdown. Ultimately now, with the United States losing the favor of other countries, baseball is needed more than ever. Where is our national pastime? It's time for Americans to take back baseball from multimillion-dollar salaries, time to take it back from steroids. It's time to re-create baseball as our ancestors played it and forever establish our game as a blessing.

— Jonah Carlson



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Mushrooms: The Other in the Woods

There is something a bit spooky about mushrooms, and it is not just the fact they look so innocuous and yet we know some of them could kill us. They are even odder than that. Without knowing the whole taxonomic story, most people who have ever focused on a mushroom (and this is not everyone) will have registered that there is something exotic about them. Those of us who remember a smidgeon of high school biology have the nervous feeling that we missed the question on the quiz about whether they were plants or animals. Remember the 20 questions game, “animal, mineral, or vegetable”? All things were supposed to be covered by those three categories. Well, not the mushroom.

It was a trick question on the biology quiz, so please don’t feel bad. And as for that childhood game, it totally left out the mushrooms, so it was a bad game. If you were thinking “morels” and the person asked, “Is it animal?” the answer is patently, “No,” unless you count the little ants and slugs and things living in the morel. The answer is still, “No,” for the other two questions, so what do we have left but an existential problem not generally encountered in our

treasured childhood memories? We have a thing, a mushroom, that turns out to be nothing.

Mushrooms are not nothing, but they are unusual, exotic, odd. What words can we use? They are remarkable! Terrific! Some pig! But at the end of the day, the mushroom simply is not like us, and we do not mean this in any pejorative sense. They are not like us (we are animals) and they are not even like broccoli (a plant). They are their own thing, or their own nothing if we must play that game.

the summer, especially when the weather is damp, and then by Thanksgiving they have vanished. They have spread their spores, dispersing the next generation, and all those toadstools are gone. Some have burst open, some withered away, and some have deliquesced.

“Deliquescence” is a fine word which can be applied to the branching patterns of certain trees, to the wetting down of dirt roads during dry spells by spreading calcium chloride, and to the “melting” of mushrooms. We could also apply it to the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*, and I think we should take it to Hollywood and make the next sci-fi thriller out of it. It would make *The Invasion of the Bodysnatchers* look like a treasured childhood bedtime story.

Look up the word and you’ll find this: “phenomenon of a substance absorbing so much moisture from the air that it ultimately dissolves in it to form a solution.” This is the sort of concept that turns us into people who never again

leave home without our raincoats.

It is not rain that causes deliquescence, it is dampness in the air. At a certain point in their lives (yes, mushrooms are living things), some mushrooms become ready to deliquesce. The group most famous for deliquescence are members of the genus *Coprinus*. These include the shaggymanes, the inky caps, and tippler’s bane. This last species, besides being able to deliquesce, used to be fed to alcoholics



They belong to their own kingdom, as taxonomists call them. There is the plant kingdom, the animal kingdom, and there is the fungus kingdom. Maybe there is the mineral kingdom, for all I know, but I hope this will not be on the quiz because I feel hazy about it.

One odd thing, not like us, about mushrooms is that they put in a rather brief appearance and then they disappear. They pop up all over the woods in

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to help them quit drinking because when taken in conjunction with alcohol it would cause alarming symptoms of nausea and palpitations. It could also be used to make black ink: boil the deliquesced caps with water and cloves.

In our sci-fi thriller we have a character named Inky. He wears a cap and has a shaggy mane and maybe he drinks a bit. He has no raincoat. He likes damp woods and has an active sex life, and then suddenly his pale blond hair—let's make him an albino—turns black and wet! It's not even raining but before our horrified eyes, Inky loses stature, loses structure, loses everything, until he is just a puddle of shiny black liquid on the ground. Soon this too disappears and our central character is gone, along with all his cousins.

The mushroom books refer to Inky as "self-digesting," which is misleading. He did not eat himself (*Silence of the Mushrooms*), he just took on so much moisture from the air that he became a liquid and dissolved in himself!

If you think about it, this is a tidy way to go and one that we all might consider once we get over our creeped-outness. It could have appeal for those of us who find Berkshire winters long and difficult but lack the airfare for Florida. I admit that turning into a puddle of disappearing ink seems a bit final, but it has been my observation that Inky always pops up again in the summer, young and vigorous. Deliquescence is not for the faint of heart, certainly, and requires a leap of faith we can't all take. Maybe, in the end, you have to be a mushroom.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Leuchs Studio Open Oct. 7, 8

The first weekend in October (Oct 7 and 8), sculptor Catherine Leuchs Bohrman, in memory of her father, stained glass artisan Fred Leuchs, who died in 1999, will again be working in his studio at 3 Lukeman Lane in Stockbridge. Friends and interested parties are invited to stop by the small artist studio near the intersection of Route 102 and Route 183 in Stockbridge. Built in the early 1900s by sculptor Augustus Lukeman, the studio was patterned after nearby Chesterwood, home and studio of sculptor Daniel Chester French, Lukeman's mentor and associate. The Leuchs studio has been in continuous use as an art studio by the same family for almost 100 years.

Fred Leuchs was a prolific artist who made his home in Monterey, where his wife, Marie still lives. He designed, created and restored stained glass windows for some of the country's most prominent institutions and homes. Catherine Leuchs Bohrman, one of five Leuchs daughters, grew up in Monterey and is now a professional sculptor. She has exhibited and sold at local galleries in West Stockbridge and Tyringham.

On October 7th and 8th Bohrman will be working on plaster models in the studio. The public is invited. The studio is undergoing restoration but one can view Catherine's plaster sculpture models beside works of her late father, as well as maquettes of Lukeman's sculptures created in the same space at the turn of the last century. For more information visit her website, www.catherinebohrman.com.

Dual Homeowners Corner

As the warm weather gradually cools down, the beauty of the Berkshires heats up with the flames of red leaves against the clear blue skies, and warm snuggles within the lakeside cottages. Bright lights, like stars, become visible on land, instead of, or in addition to, those in the sky.

Celebrations on the lawns of Tanglewood are replaced by the Berkshire Garden Festival and the county fairs stretching in a band from Columbia County to Cummington. They include the kielbasa and other home-cooked special dishes created by culinary artists of the Berkshires.

The artistry of the Norman Rockwell and Clark Museums is augmented by the stitchery and other art projects displayed in niches at the county fairs.

Closing the doors of our cottage keeps it cozy inside; however we can still look outside at our beautiful surroundings and enjoy our connection with the community of Monterey. It is difficult to start traveling back and forth to New Jersey, but we have to begin. The reward is looking forward to Monterey weekends until the snow begins to fall; then we have to decide if we can walk down to our house by the lake if it is snowing, even though we love to ski with our family at Butternut Basin. This is our home.

— Barbara and Tom Haver

Phil Cooley D/B/A

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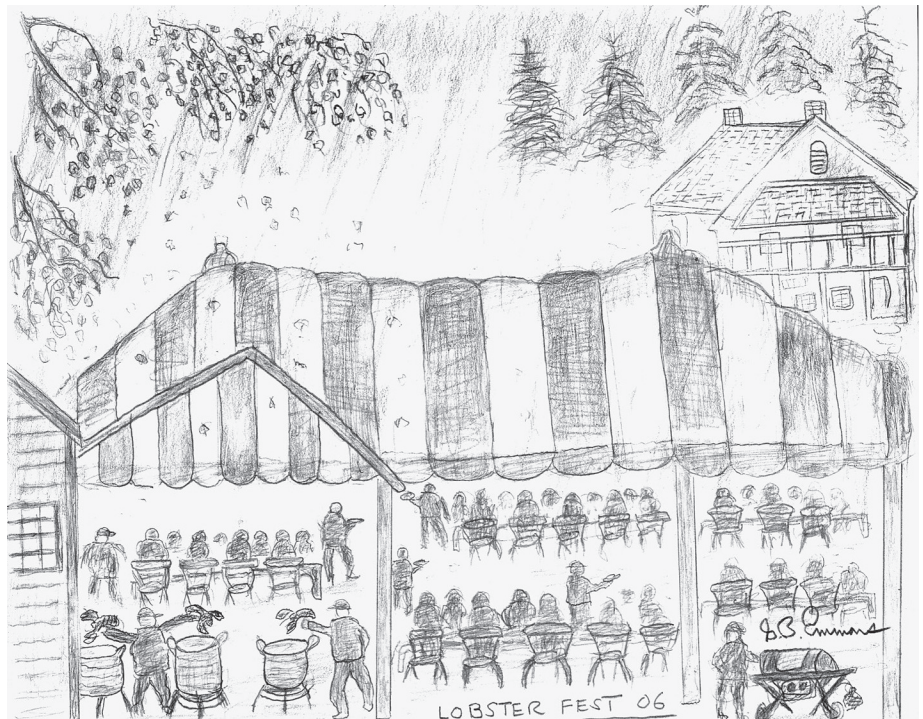
DAVID CRANE

413-644-9819

Hatchery Lobster Fest: A Special Time And Place

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials arrived early Sunday afternoon, August 27, to attend the lobster fest and sign the Memorandum Of Understanding with The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation that will allow the landmark facility to remain in operation. As they gathered in the Wildlife Center, Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity presented at the gathering about to take place. He also expressed the opinion long held by his department that this facility was blessed with a remarkable supply of quality water conducive to maintaining a disease-free cold water fishery.

Then, as we talked further about the fountainhead of an aquifer perhaps a mile below the side of the hill that feeds the artesian wells and the gravity supply system, no fewer that a record number of 140 paying guests (\$ 65 per ticket) began arriving up the driveway. Water continued to be the main topic of conversation as the heavens opened up and it came down in buckets. But thanks to an annual generous donation by Main Road resident David Ziegler, an inclement weather safety network of tents were already in place to keep the proceedings dry. Like David, just about everyone who congregated for the event was a generous benefactor, a dedicated volunteer, or a participant in the Hatchery membership.



And for everyone present, there were just as many who could not make it but had a steady hand in bringing the signing to fruition by their dedication over the years. One was Hatchery Board President John Doelman, who is recovering from illness but received a doggy bag. Another not to be forgotten, but somehow there in spirit, is the late David Cathcart, a board member going back to the early days of continuous support from the Lake Garfield Association. Memories are important because interest runs in a family and spans generations. For instance Kyp Wasiuk, master of ceremonies for the evening, was brought to the Hatchery as a child by her father, then Gun Editor of

Field And Stream Magazine.

Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent Of Schools, was appropriately in attendance to register vocally the Berkshire Southern Regional School District's high evaluation and appreciation for the Hatchery aquaphonics programs at Mt Everett over the years. The future belongs to students willing to learn about raising fish, because that is what the Hatchery is all about. To implement the more complex science of raising salmon, the latest U.S.F.&W. agenda here, will necessitate bringing more volunteers to the task ahead. And as with every opportunity, there is a responsibility, which when fulfilled will help to

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Letter from College

Learning through the ages...

Something happened to me the other day; I realized that over the last few weeks I've learned to like Aristotle. I like the way he thinks, I like the style of reasoning he uses, and I am fascinated by his explorations into human attributes. His complicated contemplations on prudence, wisdom, moral virtue, happiness, and friendship are challenging to comprehend. There are certainly questionable aspects and ideas in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, which we've just finished for my political philosophy class, and also in his *The Politics*, which I started today, but overall his thought process and reasoning are incredible. Our professor began the year by telling us, "Never be without your ethics." I'm not a huge fan of philosophy. I should rephrase that by saying any philosophical work, certainly including Aristotle, is not your typical indulgence novel and it shouldn't be. It isn't easy to

attain high achievement such as contributing to the salmon restoration project. Where else could all this happen but in grassroots America, on the picturesque hillside, where a bountiful abundance of sustenance flows up out of the earth, and on this occasion down from the sky, to witness a pact to preserve and protect the source of inspiration.

— George Emmons

read or grasp. A friend told me a few weeks ago that after Aristotle everything seems a bit easier to read. She may be exactly right. Up until last week, I was merely doing the assignments, attempting to ask intelligent questions and ultimately knowing I was not getting everything out of the *Ethics*. I still don't get every detail or reasoning that is presented, far from it, but I have a new appreciation for these works. How did this evolve you might ask?

It's oddly simple, and I'm somewhat hesitant to try and explain because there is a large chance this will make little sense, but I'm going to throw caution to the winds. During a discussion section last Friday morning, Professor Nelson said something else to us explaining his view on Aristotle's teachings. He told us we were students of Aristotle's now, that back when Aristotle gave these lectures he was surrounded by young men who learned from him the same way we were doing right then. My class learns from him to an extent, but we learn more from Aristotle, and that makes sense to me. Professor Nelson sees us as part of a continuous line of scholars all being educated by the master of political science. Days later I am still surprised by the powerful grasp that idea has on me. I have the image in my head now of young students surrounding their teacher over two thousand years ago hearing what I hear now, and it is an entirely different kind of motivation and encouragement.

District School Committee Meets in Monterey Oct. 12

The School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District will meet on Thursday, October 12, at 6 p.m. at the Monterey School. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

— Deborah D. Mielke
School Committee Representative

Despite all that I am learning in my other classes this year, this idea has stuck with me the most. It was a mere minute in one single day that has altered, or evolved, my perspective on education. Aristotle believes thinking to be a virtue of the highest regard. I am awed when I think of the truth in our professor's observation, what a gift these great writers and thinkers left us with their work, however challenging and complex it may be. Aristotle's work and that of many others has spanned the birth of Christ, the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, and the rise and fall of empires into the present day, shaping minds across the globe and through the ages. As I settle into my fall semester with classes and activities I take that little tidbit with me as I go. It helps keep things in perspective.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

Adult Fiction

Gallatin Canyon, Thomas McGuane
The Mephisto Club, Tess Gerritsen
Afghan, Frederick Forsyth
Book Thief, Markus Zusak
Puccini's Ghost, Morag Joss
Flamenco Academy, Sarah Bird
I'll Steal You Away, Nicco Ammaniti
Rise and Shine, Anna Quindlen
One from the Other, Phillip Kerr

Adult Nonfiction

Foxfire 40th Anniversary Book
What Terrorists Want, Louis Richardson
Guinness World Records 2007
The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation,
Sid Jacobson
Immortal Game: A History of Chess,
David Shenk

Children's

To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel,
Siena Siegel
Troll Bridge: A Rock and Roll Fairy Tale,
Jane Yolen
Bread and Roses Too, Katherine Paterson
Fire in the Hills, Donna Jo Napoli
The Star of Kazan, Eva Ibbotson
How to Survive in Antarctica, Susan
Bledsoe

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Little to Do with Reporting

To the Editor:

While I believe that "The Town" column is helpful in alerting citizens to issues facing Monterey, I am frequently reminded that this column has little to do with "reporting" and is only the writer's version of the minutes. Reporting requires more in-depth discussion and an effort to establish factual supporting information.

What was before the Select Board and what happened during their meetings are now found by reading the minutes regularly posted on the town website. Reading "The Town" column in the *Monterey News* provides another version of the minutes aggregated under subject-related subheadings. This might reach a wider public than the website, but I believe it has the unfortunate effect of promoting what was said as correct and to be believed without the benefit of timely response. Because

*Can You Feel the Force? Putting the Fizz
back into Physics*, Richard Hammond
I Love Tools, Philemon Sturges

DVDs

United 93
The Fellowship of the Ring – all three
movies

the *Monterey News* is a monthly paper, there is a big time gap between views expressed and the follow-up correction or amplification. I am often left with the feeling that this is not a genuine service or the best use of the *Monterey News*. Events move faster now than in the past.

All these concerns came to my mind again in reading "The Town" column of your September issue under the subheading "Lake Garfield Drawdown." Primarily the coverage centered on drawdown and how it relates to weed control in the lake. I am troubled by misinformation disseminated through the column on this subject and intend this letter to address what troubled me the most about this coverage.

First, Pat Edelstein, Chair of the Friends of Lake Garfield Ecology Committee, was identified as "FLG Activist." I found this to so blindly misconstrue her role that I can't let it go by without comment. Pat has been the expert on lake ecology in our town for many years—decades. She has attended seminars, corresponded with relevant scientists and organizations, gathered reports from governmental and scientific sources about lake ecology and watershed, brought speakers to meetings, found environmental scientists to test various aspects of our lake, learned and taught others how to perform simple water tests, provided reports to the Select Board (and put them in the Monterey Library), written often and in great detail in the *Monterey News*, and is the source of knowledge, energy and support for all things related to the health of our lake. She knows more than anyone else in our town about lake ecology and Lake Garfield.

Second, two others who have not produced data for their proposals and views about weed control in Lake Garfield were given coverage that left the impression they were presenting a valid option for weed control and valid opposition to drawdown as the method for weed control. While these comments should be aired and answered, it is discouraging that the Select Board didn't utilize the data available to them to respond to these comments, or if they did it wasn't included in the column. Pat and others have repeatedly provided the information to the Select Board that I'm about to review below. Is the Select

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Board not paying attention and absorbing the data, or is the "The Town" writer not covering that part? Can't tell.

I challenge anyone to show that the mowing of lake weeds in Lake Garfield will be effective. Mowing is a stopgap, very expensive and self-defeating measure for weed control. As in building a turf by mowing your lawn, mowing lake weeds creates more and thicker weeds. It defeats the native plants and does not deter stronger invasive weeds. Mowing is what you do when you can't drawdown—as in Lake Buel.

To ask "how successful the drawdown concept has been, since weeds continue to be a serious problem" is to show a lack of understanding of the limitations of the current permit and the evidence accumulating about the potential of drawdown if fully utilized and appropriately timed. I believe that history will show that in the summers after full drawdown—nearly 6 feet—the weeds have been less present. But we have been hobbled by a rigid permit that only allows a full drawdown in one out of every three years with no consideration for timing to accommodate actual weather conditions. Weather is not always our friend, but generally a full drawdown reaches the most troublesome weeds. See the article in this issue in which Pat Edelstein reports on the latest scientific weed survey.

While the statements regarding the need for residents in the lake's watershed to reduce their effluents into the lake are correct, to rely on behavior change in the face of the current hazards to swimmers in our lake is to ignore the realistic choices before us. I strongly support more education of watershed residents to reduce the many things that harm the lake and have worked toward that end with FLG's Watershed Awareness Campaign. But I know this will be a long campaign. Wait until I write about the need for the town to create enforcement mechanisms to require all watershed residents—not just lakefront property owners but about 400 households in the entire lake watershed area—to maintain their septic systems and test/replace old systems regularly instead of just at resale. That will create some news!

For now, we have the most economical, effective and ecologically sound method to reduce the growth of invasive weeds in Lake Garfield at our fingertips. The permit-granting authority agrees and is encouraging the Town of Monterey to get with it and hire the environmental scientists required to pull together the application necessary for a better drawdown permit. This new permit will likely allow full drawdowns regularly or more often, better control the timing of drawdown to lessen the impact on lake-based creatures,

and improve the likelihood that we can get the upper hand on the weeds now making it unsafe to swim near the shore and other sections of the lake. Town Meeting voted the money to obtain this permit. What are they waiting for? A full drawdown is scheduled to begin on October 16. If the appropriate consultant is hired right away, the supporting work for the new drawdown permit can begin while much of the relevant area is open to inspection.

Now, a word about forming a lake taxing district. Lake Garfield is a public resource for everyone in Monterey. It is fully contained in our town. There are a public beach and two boat ramps available to the public—and don't bog down these facts by interminable fights over no motorboats from the beach in summer. Many people who are not lakefront homeowners use the beach and the lake. It will be a travesty if our town does not take the steps available to protect the lake's viability and usage, right now, before it is too late. Let the arguments waft back and forth about taxing districts, boat ramps and whatever, but don't lose the moment of opportunity to grab back the chance to swim safely and comfortably in this lake.

— Janet Cathcart, Monterey

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Remembering William Purcell

William Purcell, 69, of Main Road, Monterey, died August 29th at home of lung cancer.

Bill was born in The Bronx, New York on February 19, 1937, son of William and Mary McCaffrey Purcell. He was educated in NYC schools. He came to Monterey in 1969 and made it permanent in 1997. He was a Lieutenant in FDNY, retiring in 1984 after 25 years of service. He also worked for ABC television as an air conditioning engineer, retiring in 1992.

Bill was a former ski patrolman at Butternut Basin and enjoyed rowing his shell on Lake Garfield. He was an avid sailor and made many trips along the east coast, including four trips to the Bahamas. He was a captain licensed by the U.S Coast Guard and had taught classes in the United States Power Squadron. He was also an amateur radio operator, KF2SX, and a fan of country music.

He leaves his wife of 48 years, Kathleen (Kay) Killeen, and five children: Kathleen Layton and her husband, Martin of Lee, MA; William and his wife, Susie of Kent, CT; John; Daniel and his wife, Claudia; Raymond and his wife, Corinne, all of The Bronx, as well as seven grandchildren: Ruari Layton, William, Christina, Raelynn, Daniel, Patrick, and Steven Purcell.

Funeral services were held on September 1st at Birches-Roy Funeral Home with a Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Church. Burial was in Corashire Cemetery.



A black bear checks the menu at Gould Farm (photo Steve Enoch).

Remembering Alice Burhans

Mrs. Alice May Burhans, 101, formerly of Corashire Road in Monterey, died Saturday morning, August 26, at Timberlyn Heights Nursing Home in Great Barrington. At the time of her death she was the oldest Montereyan.

Born on May 31, 1905, in Albany, New York she was the daughter of John R. and Sophia Wheeler Gillett. Alice attended local schools in Kingston, New York, and graduated from Kingston High School and later from Pottsdam University.

She taught in Kingston, New York, grammar school until retiring in 1941 when she married her husband, the late W. Gordon Burhans. The couple were married on April 15, 1941. They lived together in Hurley, New York, where Alice was the church organist at the Hurley Reformed Church.

She was very involved with various church and town activities. Alice helped

with the church fundraising dinners and also the local festival known as "Old Stone House Day." Alice and Gordon were married for 23 years until Mr. Burhans died. Alice then moved to Monterey to be closer to her sister Florence G. Brown.

Alice was a devoted housewife. She enjoyed canning and raising her own vegetables and flowers, and she kept beautiful lawns for many years. After the death of her husband Alice enjoyed being self-sufficient. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington.

Alice is survived by her son William "Bill" Burhans of Red Hook, New York, and three grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband and her sisters Edith Webster, Florence Brown, Charlotte Franz and Helen Schroeder.



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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. Oct. 9): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Saturday, October 7: Monterey Library celebration of 75th anniversary of building with displays during library hours and folk singing with Karl Finger at 10:30 a.m. See p. 12.

Sunday, October 8: Orchard House dedication, Gould Farm, 1 a.m.

Monday, October 9: Columbus Day observed.

Tuesday October 10: Monterey Knitting Circle, 6–7:30 p.m., Monterey General Store.

Thursday, October 12:

Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee meeting, 6 p.m., Monterey School. Public invited.

Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Sunday, October 15: Free movie, *The Quiltmakers Of Gee's Bend*, followed by drawing for Monterey Piecemakers quilt raffle, 4 p.m., Meeting House fellowship hall. See p. 7.

Monday, October 16: Grant applications due to Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 9.

Tuesday October 17: Free health screening, MassHealth enrollment help. 10 a.m.–noon, Monterey Town Hall. See p. 9.

Wednesday, October 25: Monterey Cultural Council public meeting to receive input for council activities and grants, 4 p.m., Town Hall. See p. 9.

Saturday, October 28:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Peter Blue. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to John and Cynthia Makuc on the birth of their daughter, Catherine Lynn, on September 29. Her siblings Jacob, Madeleine, and Grace are thrilled to see her, as is grandmother Anne Marie Makuc.

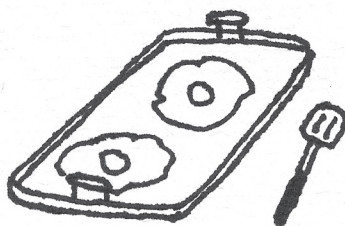
Lost Kayak

Missing since early August: orange & yellow "Pelican Wave" one-Man kayak. If found please call: Mary Beth at 914-835-5922. Thank you!

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Readers like you make it possible for us to continue publishing. We know readers receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

Hildegard Ryals
Ann Tarbell
Gerry & David Shapiro
Marjorie Perces



Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

Storytime and Halloween crafts for children, presented by Denise Andrus, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library

Tuesday, October 31: Halloween, Monterey trick or treat hours, 5–7 p.m.

The Observer

August 26–September 25

High temp. (9/10, 19)..... 76°
Low temp. (9/13) 36°
Avg. high temp. 66°
Avg. low temp. 49.6°
Avg. temp. 57.8°
Total rainfall..... 5.85 in.
Precipitation occurred on 14 days.

Hazardous Waste Collections

Residents of towns in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative may bring household hazardous waste to the Great Barrington Transfer Station, Route 7 (across from high school) on Saturday, October 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To participate, please pre-register with CET. To make an appointment, or for information about what can be brought to the collection, go to <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#collections>, call CET at 1-800-238-1221 ext 14 or 25, or email jamiiec@cetonline.org.

Farmers take note: CET is coordinating a free agricultural pesticide collection for farmers. Pre-registration is mandatory. Contact Jamie Cahillane no later than October 11 at 413-445-4556 ext. 14 or jamiiec@cetonline.org.



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Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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